

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A knife holder (1) for a cutting knife (2) of a microtome having a knife edge (5) for cutting samples, the knife holder comprising:
 - a pressure plate (3) for locking the cutting knife (2) in the knife holder (1) and for discharging the cut sample; and
 - a U-shaped frame (4) associated with the pressure plate (3) and open toward the knife edge (5) of the cutting knife (2).
2. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 1, wherein the frame (4) and the pressure plate (3) cooperate to form a water pan.
- 10 3. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 1, wherein the frame (4) is a one-piece component.
- 15 4. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 1, wherein the frame (4) and the pressure plate (3) are combined in a one-piece component.
5. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 1, wherein the frame (4) is mounted detachably on the pressure plate (3).
- 16 6. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 5, further comprising magnets (6) for mounting the frame (4) on the pressure plate (3).
7. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a fluid seal (7) between the frame (4) and the pressure plate (3).
- 20 8. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 1, further comprising a bail (8) pivotably mounted to the frame (4) for selectively covering the knife edge (5) to protect users from cuts.

9. The knife holder (1) as defined in Claim 1, wherein the U-shaped frame includes two parallel limbs (9), and each of the two limbs (9) is wedge-shaped.